

SECRET

Journal - Office of Legislative Counsel  
Friday - 9 July 1971

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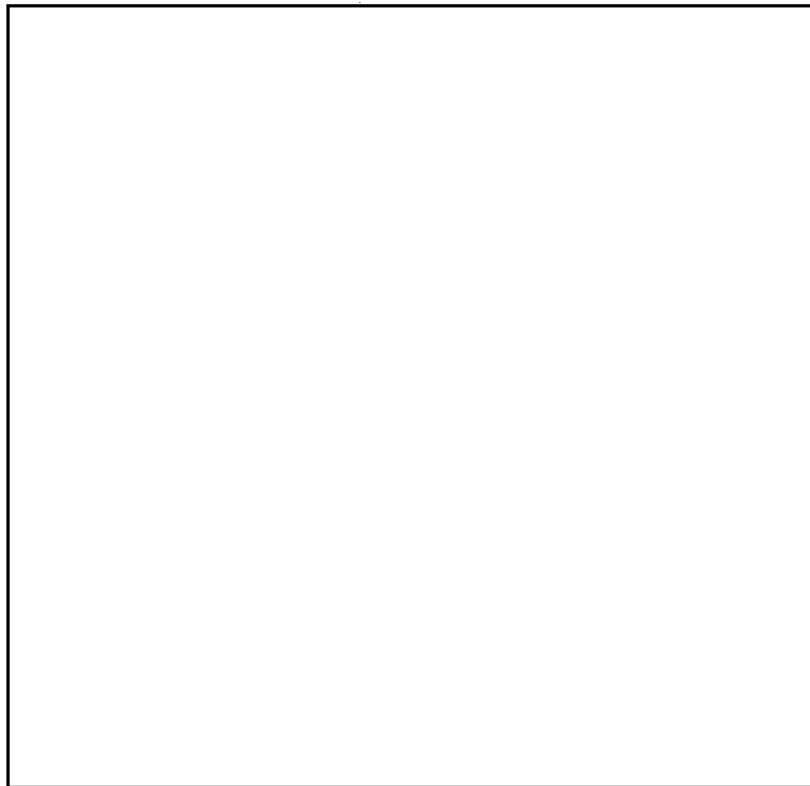


6. (Secret - GLC) Mr. John Clarke, D/PPB, called to advise he had notified Bill Woodruff, Counsel, Senate Appropriations Committee, that a careful review of the situation has brought us to the conclusion that if it should become necessary to terminate Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe the estimated termination cost was approximately \$80 million (see Mr. Clarke's Memorandum for the Record). This is the figure that will be used in the budget briefing of the House Appropriations Committee on 13 July.

7. (Secret - GLC) Picked up from Bill Woodruff, Counsel, Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Ellender's letter to the Director (with a similar letter to Assistant Secretary of Defense Packard) asking that Defense and the Agency make a decision in favor of either the DOD or Agency sensitive readout systems. This has been forwarded to the Director and copies sent to Colonel White and Mr. Duckett.

8. (Unclassified - GLC) Bill Shinn, a State Department intern now working in the office of Senator Adlai Stevenson III (D., Ill), called in connection with the bill introduced by Senator Cooper. Shinn recalled the briefing we had given Representative Brad Morse (R., Mass.) on Africa prior to the Congressman's travel there and asked if the Agency did this with other members. I told Shinn that we try to be responsive to requests of this sort whenever we could do so. Shinn obviously was concerned with the impact of the Cooper bill.

SECRET



ILLEGIB

PAUL G. ROGERS  
FLORIDA  
ROOM 2417, HAYSBURN BUILDING

COMMITTEES:  
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WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
July 8, 1971

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS:  
JOHN A. BARLEON  
ROBERT W. MAHER

Honorable Melvin R. Laird  
Secretary  
Department of Defense  
Washington, D.C. 20301

File: A&C-3-1

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The subcommittee on Public Health and Environment has been holding hearings on the President's proposal to mount a co-ordinated effort at stemming the growing menace of drug use and abuse. As the subject does not limit itself to national boundaries, and because our Armed Forces have become heavily involved in this problem, the committee asked for Department of Defense testimony and General Robert C. Taber, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (M&RA) represented DOD on June 30th. Shortly before the hearings, I was given sketchy information from intelligence work done by the Department of Defense in a four-country area of Indo-China investigating the sale of arms for opium and gold.

General Taber said he had no knowledge of this report or the situation. The committee recessed for lunch, and, upon resuming in the afternoon General Taber said he had been unable to locate the report or any information regarding the situation.

A week later General Taber reported he had still been unable to locate this report. I find it very unusual that such a situation could exist and would exist as General Taber is, I believe, the man that Secretary Packard had named to head DOD efforts in the area of drugs.

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D-9447/21

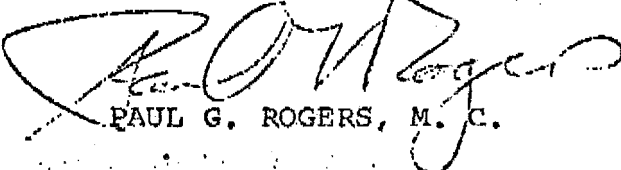
The report is cited as   
I believe this is just one of several such reports.

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I think it would be in the best interests of all if the reports bearing on the Indo-China opium-guns situation were declassified and made public as our hearings continue next week. I cannot understand how this situation has arisen. The very nature of this insidious traffic demands that our government take every step necessary to halt it and see to it that those responsible are cited for their illegal practices. I would appreciate your speediest possible reply so that we may establish a date for a hearing for your department. Because of the implications and seriousness of this matter I think it would be wise if you or Secretary Packard would appear before this committee.

Kind regards.

Sincerely yours,

  
PAUL G. ROGERS, M. C.

PGR:jag

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United States Senate

Approved For Release 2003/12/02 : CIA-RDP73B00296R000300190071-1

CARL MANGY, CHIEF OF STAFF  
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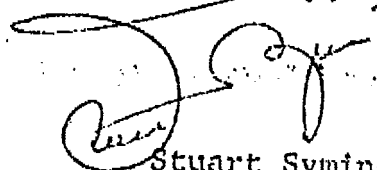
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

The Honorable  
Melvin R. Laird  
Secretary of Defense  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am enclosing a copy of a recent article from the Washington Post regarding a Defense Department report which is said to indicate that the Nationalist Chinese sold 70 tons of weapons to a Laotian general for opium, which was sold, in turn, to United States soldiers in Vietnam. I would appreciate having the comments of the Defense Department on the attached story.

Sincerely,



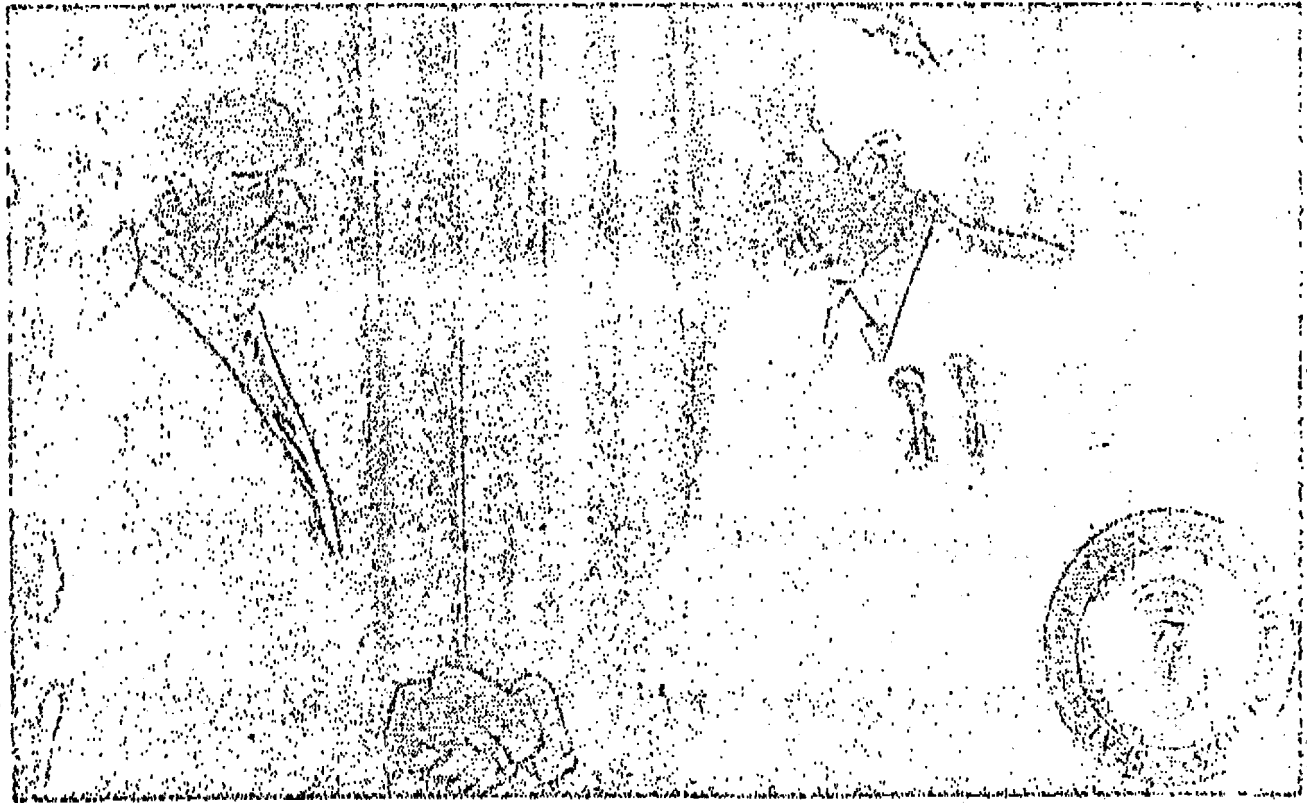
Stuart Symington  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on U.S. Security  
Agreements and Commitments Abroad

SS/lkl

Attachment

12615

D-9478/71



Associated Press

President Nixon shakes hands with Turkish Ambassador Esenbel after announcement of ban on opium poppies in Turkey.

## Taiwan Guns-for-Opium Deal Alleged

By Stuart Auerbach  
Washington Post Staff Writer

A secret Pentagon report indicates that the Nationalist Chinese sold 70 tons of weapons to a Laotian general for opium, which was sold to U.S. soldiers in Vietnam, Rep. Paul G. Rogers (D-Fla.) revealed yesterday.

Defense Department officials, hit with this statement at a hearing of Rogers' House Health Subcommittee, promised to come back today with details of the transaction. Although these officials are running the Pentagon's drug

abuse fight, they said they knew nothing about the report.

"It's very disturbing to me that arms are being exchanged for opium that is then going into Vietnam," said Rogers.

Rogers refused to make the Pentagon report public, but in answer to questions from Rep. John G. Schmitz (R-Calif.) acknowledged that the source of his information is the Department of Defense.

"You should thoroughly document these charges before throwing them out," said Rep. Ancher Nelson (R-Minn.) "There are plenty of problems

with Pentagon papers without this committee adding to them."

Rogers said the big arms-for-opium transaction occurred between last August and last November.

Included among the weapons traded to the Laotian general were American M-16 rifles, Rogers said. He added that the opium had come from Burma and that the Laotian official was "a very prominent and high ranking general."

Earlier, Lt. Gen. Robert C. Tabet, the deputy assistant secretary of defense for manpower, told the subcommittee

that all American military forces now will be able to take advantage of amnesty programs if they turn themselves in as drug users.

He said the Defense Department will issue the order in writing within 24 hours "so there can be no possible misunderstanding."

The amnesty program had been run by the military on a trial basis, but the Marine Corps had refused to participate. Marine Brig. Gen. Robert B. Carney Jr. said the Marines now will join the Army, Navy and Air Force in the program.